



Michigan Apple
ASSOCIATION

May 13, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives
Agriculture Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Members of the House Ag Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Michigan Apple Association in support of House Bill 4550, sponsored by Representative Posthumus. This bill exempt farmers (those who own or operate a farm) from jury duty during harvest season (April 1 – November 30).

Apple growers work long hours, especially during harvest season, spending seven days a week with their crews, managing the hand-harvesting of Michigan's largest and most valuable fruit crop. Different varieties of apples ripen at different rates, therefore harvest time begins in August and continues throughout fall, until the end of October, sometimes into November.

Agriculture is certainly a unique industry with unique demands for farmers. Pulling a grower away from his business at this critical time to serve jury duty would be detrimental to his or her livelihood. This bill would protect growers from being called away during harvest, when they are needed at their orchards.

On behalf of this important agriculture industry, the Michigan Apple Association supports this bill to exempt farmers from jury duty during harvest. Thank you for your consideration of this bill, and for your continued support of agriculture. If you have any questions about the Michigan Apple industry, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Diane Smith
Executive Director